ഡാക്ടർ എ. ജി. മേനോൻ.—ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൽ അവക്ക് പ്രത്യേകമായി അവരുടെ വിശേഷ ദിവസങ്ങളിലും ഒഴിവുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

പ്രസിഡണ്ട്.—അതു് ഇവിടേയും ഉണ്ട്. ക്ടാതെ വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച ഒഴിവു കൊടുത്താൽ അവക്ക് അന്നത്തെ പഠിത്തം നഷ്ടമാവും.

റാവുസാഹിബ് ടി. വി. കുട്ടനിരുക്കയ്യർ.—അവക്കു ഇവിടേയും ചില പ്രത്യേക ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ—അതായതു് ബക്രീദു, മൊഹറം, മുതലായതിന് അവക്ക് അവധി കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുയെ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. വെള്ളിയാഴ്ചകൂടി അവധി അനുവദിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ 52 വെള്ളിയാഴ്ചപഠിത്തം ഇല്ലാതെവരും. അപ്പോൾ നിയമപ്രകാരമുള്ള ദിവസം തികയുകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് കുട്ടികളുടെ വിഷയത്തിൽ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഒഴിവുകൊടുത്താൽ മതിയാകും. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ് നല്ലതു്. കോടതികളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ 'ഞാൻ മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ കക്ഷികളും സാക്ഷികളും ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ കേസ്സ് നീട്ടുന്നതിന് കോടതിക്ക് വിരോധമുണ്ടാകയില്ല.

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ജി. മേനോൻ.—ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് പറഞ്ഞ പ്രകാരം സമ്മതിച്ചും കൊണ്ട് പ്രമേയം പിൻവലിക്കുന്നതിന് മെമ്പർക്ക് വിരോധമുണ്ടോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞുമുഹമ്മദ്.—എങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാലും വേണ്ടില്ല. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ തീരുമാനത്തിന് ഒഴിവു കൊടുത്താൽ മതി. ബാക്കി സാക്ഷികളേയും കക്ഷികളേയും കല്പന അയച്ചു വരുത്തുക എന്നുള്ളതിനെ ഇതുപ്രകാരം ഒഴിവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതായി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് ഒരു കമ്മ്യൂണിക്ക് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ മതി.

പ്രസിഡണ്ട്.—കോടതികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം ഉപ്പോൾ തീരുമാനിച്ചു പറയാൻ തരമില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കോടതി നടപടികളും ജഡ്ജിമാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും അറിഞ്ഞു് അതിനു വേണ്ട വഴിയും ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ നോക്കാം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് കമ്മറ്റിയുള്ള സമയം ഒഴിവു കൊടുക്കാം. കുട്ടികളുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞുമുഹമ്മദ്.—ഇങ്ങിനെ രണ്ടെ ചെയ്യാമെന്നു വാഗ്ദത്തം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രമേയം പിൻവലിക്കാം.

പ്രസിഡണ്ട്.—മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞുമുഹമ്മദ് കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയം വോട്ടിനിട്ട് കൌൺസിലിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം അറിയണമെന്നു് ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. അതിനേപ്പറ്റി ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്ന സംഭാഷണം കൊണ്ട് വേണ്ടപോലെയുള്ള തീരുമാനം മാത്രം ഉണ്ടാക്കാമെന്നു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടതിനാൽ പ്രമേയം പിൻവലിക്കാൻ അനുവാദത്തിനു് ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നു.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave.

The Development of Irrigation.

President.—The next item is the resolution standing in the name of Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, regarding the development of irrigation.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, the resolution before the Council reads as follows:—"*That this Council respect-*

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fully recommends to the Government that a vigorous policy of development of irrigation be laid down and carried out as a part of the economic development of the State, and that a liberal allotment of not less than Rs. 2 lakhs be made in the State budget every year".

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Is that in addition to the present allotment?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—No, not this year.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Every year Government allots a lakh of rupees for irrigation.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—That is including the present allotment. It should not go below 2 lakhs.

Sir, in commending this resolution to the Council, I do not think I need make any elaborate speech to make out a strong case. Every member of this Council must be aware that, during the last World-War, we ran short of rice, and Government had to become a rice merchant, ultimately putting the State to a heavy loss. It is true the action of the Government saved the people from starvation, but at a heavy expense to the State. The resolution before the Council, if given effect to, will avoid the necessity of external dependence for our staple article of food, and at the same time will enrich the State. I do not think any sane man will question the necessity of taking every possible step to increase the yield of the State lands to the fullest extent. The question for us to consider is about the scope and the possibility of increasing the yield. In the answer to a question at the last session of this Council, the Member for Agriculture and Panchayats said that the extent of cultivable unassigned lands in the various taluks exceeds 2,500 acres, and that the extent fit for cultivation in the forests is roughly about 10,000 acres. Thus, about 12,500 acres of land, for some reason or other, remain as waste lands. Besides these 12,500 acres of unassigned waste lands, there will be an equal area, if not more, of assigned waste lands. I am sorry I am not in a position to enlighten this Council on the exact causes of these lands lying waste. In the first session of this Council, repeated assurances were given by the Government Members that the Member for Agriculture and Panchayats would be most willing and prepared to place at the disposal of the members of this House any information about the agricultural condition of the State. I wrote two letters to the Member for Agriculture. But he had not had the courtsey even to acknowledge receipt of my letters.

President.—To whom did you write?

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—To the Member for Agriculture, Sir. Of course, it is quite possible that the letters did not reach him, in which case there must be something particularly wrong with the Anchal Department. Be that as it may, these lands remained uncultivated, not because they are unfit for cultivation—as the Agricultural Member distinctly said they are fit for cultivation—but because it must be that there are not proper facilities for cultivating them. It must be plain to all, who know anything about the agricultural conditions of Cochin, that the chief facility required for cultivating the major portion of lands is proper irrigation. There are numerous rivers in the State emptying out millions of gallons of water into the open sea and doing little or no good to the lands through which they flow. The rivers are full and flooded during the rainy season when the neighbouring lands do not require any of their water, and when the lands do require water, with no bunds or anicuts and with no irrigation facilities, whatever water there may be in the rivers is all wasted into the sea. I can cite many instances where, by putting up a proper dam by the close of *Thulavarsham* in some of the rivers, hundreds of acres of land in which only one crop is now being raised can be rendered fit for raising double crop, and hundreds of acres of land that now lie waste can be rendered fit for one crop, and in some cases for double crop. It is indeed a sad sight to see millions of gallons of water being emptied out every year from the *Kole* lands into the sea, whereas it is quite possible that much of this water could be stored up in proper places and utilised for converting single crop lands into double crop lands. I had occasion to go through the report submitted by Mr. K. Kochugovinda Marar to the Government, while he was the Municipal Chairman of the Trichur Municipality, about such storage of water in some fields near Ayyantole. He has shown there that about 200 acres of *Mundakan* lands adjacent to the storage fields would be capable of being converted into *Puncha* lands also. He estimates that the total expenditure of the scheme will be about 4,500 rupees against which it would be possible to recover Rs. 5,782 from the cultivators who are likely to be benefited by the scheme. Even taking it for granted that the income may not only exceed the expenditure but be something less than the expenditure, is it not worth while to incur a small expenditure, if, by so doing in that one particular locality, 200 acres of land could be converted into double crop lands? Besides this, it is quite possible that such storages would solve the water scarcity problem in many parts of the State.

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President.—Was there any storage of water in Ayyantole during the year 1100?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Last year there was storage of water.

President.—How much additional extent of land was brought under cultivation?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Last year's experiment was not a success.

President.—Once they attempted in the Erattachira.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Kokkala. That was given up.

President.—Last year they tried at Ayyantole. This year they have not tried anywhere. Was there a great loss?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They spent about Rs. 4,500.

President.—I think Government spent Rs. 1,500, the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ltd., promised Rs. 1,500, the Municipality promised to give another Rs. 1,500. When we made the demand, they raised all sorts of objections for paying the amount.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—This year there was a request to the Municipality. It was refused by saying that it was a failure last year.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I have only referred to two sorts of irrigation facilities that may well be attempted by the Government in the different parts of the State and I am sure many more facilities can be given. Before concluding, I may just refer to one or two suggestions made by expert agriculturists of the locality for increasing the irrigation facilities:—

1. Putting up a dam in the Manali river higher up Trikkur and the cutting of a channel to irrigate the land as far as the Manali bridge. This may irrigate about 5,000 paras of land.

2. Almost all the rivers and streams in the Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks, not the Chalakkudi river, ultimately find their way into the sea through the Karuvannur river. For want of a bigger outlet during rainy season, these streams and rivers cause enormous damage to the adjacent lands, and breaking bunds, cause heavy recurring expenditure to the Public Works Department. By providing proper outlets, many of the lands that are submerged and others which are damaged by the breaking of bunds could be made more productive, and the recurring expenditure of the D. P. W. also saved. I am sure many more facilities can be suggested, and I trust experts like the

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Engineering Member and the Member for Agriculture will explainthem to the Council, and it is for the expert members to examine and carry out the suggestions, if found feasible. The allotment of 2 lakhs I ask for, though it may appear to be an expenditure in the first instance, will ultimately prove to be a source of greater income to the State, besides enriching the people and making the State self-dependent for the principal articles of food.

There is one more important reason why the Government should not grudge to incur this initial expenditure. This year's budget has shown an income of almost one lakh of rupees by the assignment of waste lands. To the best of my knowledge, Government was not making any revenue by the assignment of cultivable lands but was encouraging cultivation without charging any assignment fee or charging any land value. It is but proper that Government should spend at least the income which they derive as land value for irrigation purposes alone, and if my information is correct, it was with that view that the land values were being collected. The Diwan Peishkar, if my information is correct, is said to have expressed his opinion in favour of utilising such amounts for agricultural improvements. This House will, I have no doubt, unanimously endorse my opinion that no officer of the State will be as much interested as the Diwan Peishkar in seeing that the Land Revenue swells much more than any other receipt. And his opinion in the matter has to be taken as an authoritative one. I am sure he will be pleased to enlighten the House on this matter with his encyclopaediac knowledge.

From the file placed on the table in answer to my question number 323, I find that in the solitary taluk of Mukundapuram alone nearly 2,700 acres of single crop and 5,000 acres of double crop lands could be ploughed, besides converting 1,500 acres of single crop into double crop lands by attending to *only* minor irrigation improvements. When such is the case, the House can imagine the remarkable progress we could make in the matter of agricultural development, if major irrigation works are undertaken in a responsible manner. I am sorry that even the final commandment of His Highness the Maharaja given as early as 1092 has not been satisfactorily carried out in the lofty and benevolent spirit with which it was given. I was told the other day that the scheme which had received His Highness' assent was being proceeded with, it being a big one.

The Parappukkara Agricultural Association has sent a dozen specific schemes which have been approved by the Tahsildar in his report on the file:—

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1. An earthen bund is to be put across the Kurumali river which can irrigate 100 to 200 acres.

2. The restoration and improvement of Kali *thodu*.

3. The improvement of the Munankad *nilom* in the Vallivattom village.

4. Improving the Chathan *Chal puncha nilam*, etc., in Kallur Vadakkummuri.

5. The improvement of Vaintala *padom*.

6. The improvement of some *poramboke thodu*, etc.

These have got the sanction of His Highness. Will the responsible Member for Government in charge inform this House as to what all works connected with that scheme have been undertaken since 1092, what all works have been partly completed, and what all works have been fully completed? This House will also be obliged for the information as to the works that remain to be taken up, and the time before which they hope to complete the same. If financial considerations had appeared to be a bug-bear, the authorities could well have contemplated a scheme similar to that of the Mattancheri Electric Company which, now, I am told, is almost an accomplished fact, more than the majority of shares having been subscribed privately. I do not know if even Rs. 25,000 allotted by the Government would be converted into shares in the Company. If Mr. Bhore's electric scheme, of which an Hon'ble Member interpellated the other day, had been seriously taken up—especially at this time, when we have an expert Electrical Engineer in the person of our Chief Engineer—we could have both electricity for lights, fans and industrial developments and enough of water to irrigate the whole of the southern taluks. Why that idea has been left unconsidered, I do not know. Even now it is not too late for the Government to consider about such a scheme.

With these points, I request the House to vote for my resolution.

മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞിങ്ങാട്ട് ശങ്കരൻനമ്പൂതിരി.—മിസ്റ്റർ രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച പ്രമേയത്തോട് ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. ജനസംഖ്യയുടെ വർദ്ധനയനുസരിച്ച് കൃഷിക്കുള്ള പുതുക്കണ്ടുതിയും അതുമൂലം ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ കിട്ടാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുടെയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതും പുഷ്ടിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതും ഏതു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെയും പ്രധാന മുമതലയാണ്. മദ്രാസ് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടും ബോംബെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടും അനവധി ലക്ഷം ഇറിഗേഷൻ പണികൾക്കായി വിനിയോഗിച്ച് കൃഷിക്ക് വേണ്ട സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള വിവരം എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാകകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ വിസ്തരിക്കാൻ തുനിയുന്നില്ല. അതുപോലെ നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടും ദൃഷ്ടി പതി

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ച്ചാൽ ഈ പ്രാവശ്യം പല ദിക്കിലും തരിശായി കിടക്കുന്ന ഭൂമി കൃഷിക്കു് ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുവാനുള്ളതാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് കൃഷിക്കു പ്രയാസമായ ഈ പ്രദേശത്തെ ഐകകണ്ഠ്യേന പാസ്സാക്കണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ മലബാറിയായി അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Sir, I beg to move the following amendments:—"*To add 'a committee with a non-official majority be appointed to lay down' between 'that' and 'a vigorous policy', to substitute 'to be' in place of 'be laid down and' and to omit the words 'of not less than Rupees two lakhs.'*"

In the main I support this resolution. If there is any field of activity which has been neglected by the Government during the last 60 years, it is the field of irrigation. Most of the *chiras* and tanks now existing were constructed during Diwan Mr. Sankara Wariar's time. If I be right, the Mulattara Project was also taken up during his time, although it was completed only by his successor. Since then, nothing worth the name has been done by the Government in the field of trrigation. The importance of irrigation for the development of agriculture cannot be over-estimated. The matter has been fully dealt with by the mover of the resolution, and I do not propose to repeat the argument I think the time has come. From what I know of the agriculturists, the water scarcity is felt everywhere throughout the State. Since the rainfall in Chittur was less than in other parts of the country, the necessity for irrigation works was felt there. Now, throughout the State, I can speak from personal experience that there is no ryot who is not in need of water. They always depend upon rain water, and they do not get it at the proper time. There is failure of crops throughout. The only solution can be the development of irrigation systems. A committee—a responsible committee—has to sit and to see whether our rivers could be made useful instruments for the improvement of agriculture. I know it will require big large sums of outlay, but, instead of spending every year a few rupees, I would even ask the Government to create a sinking fund and set apart a portion every year to undertake big projects, when sufficient funds are available. From what I know, I think most of the rivers could be made useful instruments. And very recently there is a proposal at Tannikkudam—I am not familiar with the details of it. From the conversation which I had with the Agricultural Superintendent, I am led to believe that this is a very useful scheme with regard to the success of which I am not competent to say anything on this occasion. I think the time has come for us to make a definite programme and carry out all the useful irrigation works. The

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amendments are only three. The third amendment is to omit the amount mentioned in the resolution—"of not less than two lakhs". With regard to the first, a committee may be appointed with a non-official majority. The second amendment is only verbal—to suit the first—, and the third is to omit the amount that is fixed.

President.—Only a liberal allotment. That is all.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I don't feel there is any meaning in saying that we should have to fix any particular amount. It all depends upon the necessities of each occasion. With these words, I move the amendments standing in my name.

Sreemati T. Madhavi Amma.—I second the amendments.

Irrigation is one of the most important, at the same time, the most difficult, of questions to be dealt with here to-day.

In Cochin, the population is more than 9 lakhs—nearly a million, all of whom are dependent upon rice as food. I do not know the exact extent of wet lands now under cultivation, or the yield out of these yearly. Yet I am certain that the annual amount of paddy now yielded is not at all sufficient for the people on the whole. So, if this problem can be solved, it will certainly be a boon to the State and her people. But the question before the House is about its practicability.

In the East Coast Districts, such as Godavari, Krishna and other places, we find the irrigation systems worked successfully in the most beautiful and systematic way, but we must not forget that there even the natural conditions are more to their advantage unlike here. Firstly, the gradient there is one inch in a thousand. Here it is 1 in 15. There the rainfall is not heavy. They get very few showers a year. Here it is different. This is a place where the winter season is long and the rainfall heavy. Hence the percolation and slopy nature of the land may not give the anticipated result to the extent of our hopes and toils. Even so, in some places, for instance, in the Chittur Taluk, I understand that the idea can be worked, and can reap full benefit out of irrigation. But in some parts of the Trichur Taluk and such other places, the case is not so; where water is scarce, drains or canals cannot be dug, I suggest big reservoirs to be made to pump out water for the fields and other local needs, and bunds can be raised or removed, as the case may be, in places where they are found necessary.

In Mr. Browning's time as Engineer, a vast amount of money was spent in the name of irrigation, which helped to prove

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only that it is a failure here. Hence, before venturing upon a big scheme like this and speculating money on uncertain things, I too think that it would be more prudent, if the matter is got investigated first by a committee, consisting of competent men, whether officials or non-officials or both, or one of the two who will lay the report on this table as soon as it is got ready, so that this House may be able to frame a mature opinion, after knowing all the aspects of the question, to work it upon a sounder basis.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I rise to support this most useful resolution, useful both for the Government and for the people.

President.—You are supporting the resolution as amended?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes, Sir. The population is pressing upon the soil. The margin of cultivation is becoming every day small, and we find that, in spite of the fact that the bureaucratic administration has been strengthening itself in administrative matters, this useful channel of giving assistance to the people has been neglected. This charge cannot be met by saying that we have been developing Education, we have been developing Public Works, we have been developing the Agricultural Department, and so on. The effect is that no bold and vigorous schemes of irrigation for the purpose of giving water to the ryots have been formed or formulated by the Government of Cochin. If this Council succeeds in making the Government give more attention, not for a mere Department of Agriculture but for useful works like irrigation in the Department of Agriculture, then I think, Sir, that we have done our duty to our country. By having a hydro-electric scheme in Chalakkudi and in the various other places, investigated at the expenditure of Rs. 39,000 or Rs. 36,000 to the State, you have done nothing useful or practical. Ten years have rolled by since about Rs. 36,000 or Rs. 39,000 of the public fund was spent upon the investigation of an hydro-electric scheme, and I regret to say that that scheme has not been even made public in Cochin. It was worked out, as if it were a preserve into which the common eye shall not penetrate. Why? I myself, Sir, attempted without success to have a look at that scheme, and I regret to say that I met with failure even to have a look at that scheme. To my knowledge, a gentleman from outside—a gentleman who had some engineering knowledge from outside the State—had the chance to have a perusal of those papers. In my opinion, it can

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easily be handled by a man with a little business brain, and if all of us can put our heads together, I think the money will come to make the scheme useful, and any amount of water can be lifted from Chalakkudi or any other river by that power for irrigation purposes in Trichur, etc. Now, it has been said by the Hon'ble Member for the Jenmi Constituency that a Cochin Diwan was able to lay down an irrigation scheme, namely, the Mulattara system, and since then, lakhs have been spent in vain for a single scheme, elsewhere. I think the time has come when another Cochin Diwan, who knows what agriculture is and what the agricultural means are, should undertake a bold scheme for irrigation purposes. I am at one with the Hon'ble Member for the Jenmi Constituency when he says that we should at least have a look at the surroundings. Let us survey the field to see which taluk should be taken at first, and what are the sources of irrigation that we can have there. If it is not useful to have a general scheme investigated for the whole of the State, let us take it up taluk by taluk, and let us find the sources for water, the way in which it can be irrigated, the way in which it can be done in the cheapest manner possible, how it will be beneficial to the individual ryot, etc. Then we will be doing useful work. Of course, the general awakening is come, as we have seen from the mover's resolution. In a matter like irrigation which should receive the attention of the Government and the country, I must submit that, with this general discussion in view, I cannot see how the Government cannot but be in sympathy with the spirit of the resolution; and then we can bring as many resolutions or amendments as possible to take taluk by taluk, so that we may not fitter away our energy and funds. After all, we have not much energy and funds. With whatever we have, let us try to do effective work and take taluk by taluk and investigate the scheme wherever it is possible. Let us thus tackle with this problem of irrigation, and entrust the matter to an officer for investigation purposes. With these few words, I support the resolution.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, if I rise to support this resolution, it is mainly as a protest against the indifference with which the Government have been receiving the prayers of the people to provide them with better means of irrigation. As far back as 1094 or 1095, a committee was appointed by the Government to report upon the ways and means by which relief may be brought to the poor cultivators. If I mistake not, a lakh and sixty thousand paras of paddy lands in the *Kole* areas are being cultivated almost every year by His Highness' subjects in the

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Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks. Year after year, we hear the cry that the expenditure they have to incur in respect of *Kole* cultivation is going up by leaps and bounds—what with the enormous engine charges and what with the enhanced price of the necessary materials. Side by side, we also hear the cry that, towards the end of the season, before harvesting commences, there is an absolute scarcity of water for watering the paddy fields. This year, I know as a matter of fact, if God is not merciful enough upon the poor peasants that are working the *Kole* areas, and do not bring down rain very soon, there would not be a grain of paddy to be harvested. Almost all the fields are now dry—I have seen it with my own eyes. The water that is there now will not be sufficient and cannot stand for a week. What have the Government done? They received the *Report of the Kole Committee*, and as far as I know, nothing else has been done. During all these years they have been spending large amounts on what is known as the Agricultural Department—a department intended to improve agriculture in the State. I have calculated a few figures. From 1090 onwards, including the estimates of 1101, the Government have spent on agriculture nearly 9 lakhs of rupees, and had an income of one lakh and 29 thousand—I have not included the expenditure on Avenues. These amounts were spent mostly on the Farms. That is my information.

President.—But do they not spend on irrigation?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I have not included that here. Whatever has been spent—let it be lakhs—has not been of much use.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Bunds are being constructed year after year. The Mulattara bund was undertaken a long time ago.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In my humble opinion, it is of no use to undertake small irrigation works here and there. We must have a consolidated scheme enquired into by a competent committee, and then we must begin work in pursuance of that consolidated scheme. There is no use of spending some money here and some there without much chance of material improvement.

President.—Had we not an Irrigation Committee like the Kole Committee?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Certain Revenue Officers got up a scheme to which the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi referred.

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President.—They have done something in consultation with the Road Committee.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was only a departmental enquiry and investigation.

President.—I know about the Road Committee and the Kole Committee.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There has been no Irrigation Committee till now.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, we have spent about 9 lakhs of rupees on what we call the Agricultural Department—on this alone. With what result? I had asked several questions to elicit information on the work the department has done—to know whether any results have been achieved and whether agricultural yield has increased out of proportion to the extra cost incurred.

President.—We are speaking of irrigation.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Now, Sir, if we are told that, in particular areas, this department has succeeded in increasing the yield out of proportion to the extra expenditure incurred, we would have been very happy to congratulate the Member incharge of the Department. But what we hear outside is—the Government does not supply authentic information—that absolutely no good result has been hitherto achieved from the work of this department. If this money had been spent in improving irrigation in the *Kole* lands, it would have been a real boon to those peasants cultivating the lands; they would not have lost the annual yield of these one lakh and sixty thousand paras of paddy fields. Only after getting a report from a competent committee suggesting a consolidated scheme of irrigation for the State, need the Government spend any amount on this behalf. I hope that the Government will see its way to undertake a consolidated scheme, not a small bit here and another there, but a scheme which, taken up village by village or taluk by taluk, as it is found expedient, will bring real relief to the poor and suffering cultivator.

Sir, in this connection, may I suggest that, even without undertaking a very huge scheme, the Government can take up the work of pumping out water from the *Kole* areas and storing them in convenient localities. The amount now spent for this pumping process is simply enormous. People cannot get engines in time; when they get, they have to pay a very high rent for them. Then, working day and night, they pump out the whole water, and allow it to escape through the weirs of the Enamavu bund. If a portion of this water can be stored for

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sometime, there would not be such scarcity as now prevails. It is high time for the Government to take a decisive step—some measure which will bring salvation to the suffering cultivator. If such a step is not taken soon, the time is not far distant, when most of our tillers of the soil will be veritable paupers.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരി.—ഈ പ്രമേയത്തോട് ഞാനും പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കായ്ത്തന്നെപ്പറ്റി കഴിഞ്ഞ സബ്ജറ്റ് സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ വച്ചുതന്നെ എനിക്ക് പറയാനുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വളരേക്കായ്ങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ നിവേദിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഞാൻ എപ്പോഴും കൃഷി, കൃഷി, എന്നു പറയുന്നതുമിക്കവാറും കോർകൃഷിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണെന്നു് അർത്ഥമാക്കിയാൽ മതി *Laughter.* ഏകദേശം 84-ാമാണ്ടുമുതൽ കോർകൃഷിയുടെ ദോഷപരിഹരണത്തിനായി പല മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ആണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കയും ഹർജ്ജികൾ മൂലം അറിയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിന്റെ ഒക്കെ ഫലമായിട്ടാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു 1095-ാമാണ്ട് എങ്ങനെയെങ്കിലും ഒരു കോർകമ്മറിയെ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിൽനിന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ച് അവർ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുകയും റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനുശേഷം ഗവർമ്മേണ്ട് എന്തു നടപടി അതിന്മേൽ നടത്തി എന്നു അറിയാൻ പാടില്ല. അതിനുശേഷം എന്താണ് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ട് ചെയ്യുതെന്നു് അറിയാനായി വല്ലതും ചോദിക്കുമ്പോഴൊക്കെയും, "കടലാസ്സ് മേശപ്പുറത്തു തയ്യാറുണ്ട്" എന്നല്ലാതെ മറ്റു യാതൊരു സമാധാനവും പറയുന്നതിവിടെ കാണുന്നില്ല *Hear Hear*). ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതി ഞാൻ പറയുകയാണ്. ഇന്നു കോർകൃഷി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ആസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങളിൽ ആരെങ്കിലും പോയി കണ്ടാൽ തീർച്ചയായും ആ കൃഷിയുടെ പരിതാപകരാവസ്ഥയെ ആരും സഹിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അത്ര പരിതാപകരമാണ്.

പ്രസിഡണ്ട്.—വളരെ നിലങ്ങൾ വതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു. വെള്ളം ശേഖരിച്ചുനിർത്തുന്നതിനു് യാതൊരു സൌകര്യവും ഇല്ലാതെകഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു എന്നു പറയുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. വെള്ളം പമ്പുചെയ്ത് അടിച്ചുകയറിയാലും അങ്ങനെ സൌകര്യമായ സ്ഥലം ഇല്ലാത്തതിനാൽ തരിച്ചു വെള്ളം എന്നാമായ്ക്കൽ കായലിലേയ്ക്ക് ഒഴുകിപ്പോയ്ക്കളയുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. പമ്പുവെച്ചു വെള്ളംകയറിയാണ് കൃഷിനടത്തുന്നതു്. അപ്പോഴേയ്ക്കുമാത്രം വെള്ളം ഉണ്ടാകും. അവിടെ വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനിർത്താൻ വഴിയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് പിന്നീട് കൃഷിചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ വെള്ളം ഇല്ലാതെവരുന്നു. വളരെ നിലങ്ങൾ കൃഷിക്കു് പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തുപോയി. ഇതൊക്കെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുവെന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നതു്?.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവി നമ്പൂതിരി.—പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് വിഷമം അധികം വന്നുചേർന്നതു്.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—There is one fact which I may just mention. It is well known that there are many irrigation channels in the *Kole* areas. Many of the irrigation channels are allowed to be dried up.

President.—How are we to preserve the water from escaping into the sea? പമ്പുവെച്ചു കളയുന്ന വെള്ളം സൌകര്യമായി ഒരിടത്തിൽ സൂക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യമാണ് പ്രധാനമായി നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. അതിനു് തരം ഉണ്ടോ?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The only way for getting water in the *mundakan* lands is to keep a water reservior; and the water that is pumped out must be preserved, and it may be used afterwards for cultivation. That, we are not in a position to do now.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവി നമ്പൂതിരി.—വെള്ളം നിറ്ത്താൻ സ്ഥലം ഇല്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഈ കഷ്ടാവസ്ഥക്കു് പ്രധാന കാരണമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളൊക്കെ കോർകൃഷിക്കായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തു. കൃഷിക്കാർ അസംഖ്യം പണം വ്യയംചെയ്തു് ബണ്ടും ഉണ്ടാക്കി. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഭാരമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ നികുതി ആയി അടയ്ക്കയും വേണം. ഇനി അതു് തരിശിട്ടിരുന്നാലും വളരെ സങ്കടകരമായിരിക്കും.

പ്രസിഡണ്ടു്.—സംശയമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവി നമ്പൂതിരി.—കോർകൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് ഏക്കർ ഒന്നിനു് മുപ്പതു മുപ്പത്തഞ്ചു രൂപാ ചിലവുവേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. അതുതന്നെയും ആരെങ്കിലും മാറും പണയം വച്ചാണു് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു്. പൊന്നും പണ്ടങ്ങളും മറ്റും പണയം വെച്ചാണു് അതുചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അതൊന്നും കിട്ടാതെ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോകട്ടെ. അതുസഹിക്കാമെന്നുകരുതിയാൽത്തന്നെയും ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് നികുതി ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നകാര്യമാണു് സംശയം. അതാണു് പ്രധാനമായി ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അവർ കൃഷിക്കു് സൌകര്യംചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുകയും ഇല്ല. നികുതിയിൽ ഒട്ടും ഇളവുചെയ്കയും ഇല്ല. കൃഷിനഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടാലും അവർക്കു് നികുതികിട്ടണം (*Laughter*). ഏതായാലും നികുതി ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടു് ഏതാനും ഭാഗമെങ്കിലും നനയ്ക്കാനായി വെള്ളം സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിലേയ്ക്കു് കുറെയെങ്കിലും തരിശു ഇടാതെ തരമില്ല. നികുതിയുടെ നാലിലൊന്നു് ചിലവുചെയ്യണം. എങ്കിലേ കൃഷിചെയ്വാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. ഇപ്പോൾ കുറെ ഇളവുചെയ്തു് മറ്റുഭാഗങ്ങളിലെ കൃഷിക്കായി വെള്ളം അവിടെ കെട്ടിനിറ്ത്തുന്നതു് കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു് വിരോധമായില്ലായിരിക്കാം. രാജ്യത്തെ പൊതുസംഖ്യ അങ്ങനെ നമ്മുടെ തോളു് അനുസരിച്ചു് കൃഷിവർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതല്ലാതെ തരിശായി ഉടാൻ ഇടയാക്കുന്നതും കൃഷി നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതും ഒട്ടും കാലത്തിനു് യോജിച്ചതല്ല. ദിവാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ ബാനർജിയുടെ കാലത്തും അദ്ദേഹം ഈ ചരിതാപകരാവസ്ഥയുടെ പരിഹരണത്തിനായി പലഅന്വേഷണങ്ങളും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങനെ വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനുള്ള മുതൽ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു് കൊടുക്കണമെന്നും പലരും അക്കാലത്തു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു. അന്നു് കൃഷി ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ അതിനു് തയ്യാറുമായിരുന്നു. എങ്കിലും അതും നടപ്പിൽ വരാനിടയായില്ല. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് അനുവദിക്കാത്തതിനാൽ ഈ പ്രമേയം അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഒരു വിഷയത്തെ—കൃഷി പ്രധാനമായ വിഷയത്തെ—അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി ഉള്ളതാകയാൽ ഇതു് ഇവിടെ പാസ്സാക്കേണ്ടതു് രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനു് അത്യന്തം അപേക്ഷിതമാണു്. ഇറിഗേഷൻ ജോലികൾക്കായി ഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപ ഈതിൽ കൈവിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളു. അതു കൂടിയിരുന്നാലും ഒട്ടും തരക്കേടില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ആ സംഖ്യ പോരെന്നു് എനിക്കുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ അതുമാത്രമേ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നുള്ളു. ഇനിഇപ്പോൾ മാറുന്നതിനു് ശ്രമിക്കുന്നതു് സാഹസവുമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഏതായാലും ഞാൻ സന്തോഷം ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ബലമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, a serious attempt at improving irrigation in the State in general was seen made in 1917, when an investigation was ordered by the Government

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into the existing conditions of wet cultivation. An exhaustive list of irrigation improvements was drawn up in consultation with the people.

In the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk one of the main works proposed is the opening of drainage canals for the benefit of *Kari* and *Puncha niloms* in the Thiruvankulam, and Kureekkad villages. The proposal was to construct two channels, one connecting the eastern river with the Kaniavalli river and the other connecting in its turn the Kaniavalli river with the backwaters. These *niloms* cover an area of 1,500 acres, and it was hoped that the measures proposed would satisfactorily drain off the surplus water and solve the problem. The cost of the works was estimated at Rs. 1,07,200, and its performance purely protective. No extra revenue could be expected, and the Travancore Government which will be affected by these works had intimated that it is unwilling to make any contribution. We had also set up guages last year to gather the technical data necessary before designing the channels, but were surprised to find that the backwater levels were always higher than the level of the water in the lands proposed to be drained. The scheme, therefore, for the above reasons, does not promise to be a sound one, though we have not abandoned it altogether. We would like to check our readings once more this season, before pronouncing a definite opinion.

Then we have the construction of a bund with sluices across the Konath river at the southern terminus. This requires the participation of the Travancore Government, who has, to say the least, not been very keen on the scheme. Further, the question of introducing bunds where drainage is an important and vexed question has not to be taken up unless found to be absolutely necessary.

Next is the Nayarambalam bund to protect paddy lands known as Chakkarachal *padam* in Nayarambalam and Kadamakkudi villages. This scheme would cost Rs. 80,000, and promises a return of 6 per cent. The work is similar to that done on the Kuzhuppalli bund which has proved to be a success to some extent. Those lands consist of a swampy island in the midst of the back-waters. The influx of salt-water, erosion and inundation are the chief enemies of the farmer of these parts. The lands benefited are to the extent of 240 acres, out of which about 142 are being cultivated now. The work is of a purely protective nature.

Then we shall go on to the Mukundapuram Taluk. Among the main works proposed is the improvement to the Kappathodu. They consist of putting up a masonry bund in place of earthen

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Chiras now put up by the ryots. This work will be purely protective and not of a remunerative nature.

Another work is the opening of a canal as an outlet for the Muriyad lake leading into the Chetwaye Mathilakom Canal. The villages of Arattupula, Pullur, Muriyad, etc., suffer from inundation during the monsoons, and any work which would relieve the distress has the greatest claim on the Government, if feasible. The area that is directly benefitted by this work will be 3,642 acres. The work is estimated to cost approximately 2¾ lakhs of rupees. The preliminary scrutiny consisted of finding the levels of water at both ends of the proposed canals during the monsoon season. We have taken levels last year, and they are being tabulated and re-checked. It would be necessary to take levels at least for another year, before we could definitely settle about the work. We have this work in our schedules at present.

Then come improvements to the Villichira canal. The villages of Chengallur, Mattattur, Kodakara, Nellayi, etc., are disadvantageously placed in the matter of irrigation supply in time of draught. The proposal is to dam up the Kurumali river and lead another canal for irrigation. I have not personally looked into this scheme, but doubts as to the suddeness of bunding the waters of a torrential stream like the Kurumali have been raised. I hope, however, to take this matter up for investigation as time permits.

Improvements to the Kelithodu is another work, the cost of which is estimated at Rs. 14,250 with no revenue. This *thodu*, which is a very large and ancient one has been silted up, thereby affecting the drainage and water supply to the villages of Amballur, Nemminikara and Thoravu. The proposal is to clear the silt of this *thodu* and regrade it wherever necessary.

Improvements to the Elayanath *puncha padom* in Thirumukkulam village, consist of a masonry *chira* for admitting fresh water into the fields, would cost approximately Rs. 11,500 and yield a revenue of less than 1 per cent.

One of the important works in the Trichur Taluk is the scheme for the drainage and irrigation of the *Kole* lands. For this purpose we have started the works for the improvements of the Enamakkal dam; and other connected points are being investigated by us.

The next one is the Vemmbu River Project. The proposal is to construct an anicut across the Manali river at a place called Peechi. This work is not thoroughly investigated as yet, and we hope to do it shortly.

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The rest of the works proposed in Trichur are of very minor importance serving only a limited area of lands, and, therefore, will not be discussed here at present.

In the Talappalli Taluk we have several proposals. One of them is a drainage canal in the villages of Porkkulam, Mangad and Kunnamkulam, serving an area of 406 acres. The idea is to connect these paddy lands by a suitable canal with the Vettikkadavu river. The improvements will cost, approximately, Rs. 13,000 as per estimates prepared, and the additional yearly revenue is expected to be Rs. 150 or a little over 1 per cent.

Another refers to the protection of 140 acres of land in Pynkulam village. Rock blasting and widening the mouth of the Pynkulam *thodu* as it enters the Bharathapuzha, with the construction of a masonry *chira*, are the remedies suggested. The work would cost Rs. 14,070, and it is purely protective. It is expected to considerably benefit the local land-owners, however.

The irrigation supply to lands around the village of Thiruvilluamala would cost Rs. 2,500, and the nature of the work is purely protective. The rest of the works are of minor importance and serving only a limited number of land-holders.

In the Chittur Taluk we have certain important irrigation systems making use of the waters of the Alayar river. Improvements to the irrigation systems here consist mainly of regrading canals, strengthening the embankments and constructing *thodus*. Estimates to the extent of about 5 lakhs have been prepared, and works in the Mulathura system have already been taken up for execution. The rest will follow in the sequence of their importance. The investigations in regard to these are very thorough, and no special works other than what we have contemplated do not seem to be needed here.

Now, Sir, I have detailed briefly the popular works of irrigation which have been proposed by our people from time to time. Almost all of these, you would have noticed, are poor schemes from a remunerative point of view. The gross income that they are estimated to give varies from nothing to 1 per cent at the most. Now is the time for us to formulate a policy in regard to works on irrigation. Are we to take up costly irrigation works of this sort which do not yield any dividend at all? The main irrigation works in India at this time are all worked out from a commercial point of view. The Mettur Project is expected to give a dividend of about 6 per cent and the Sukkur Barrage more than 7, and many of the works in Punjab, especially the Sutlej

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Valley Project, are all worked out from a commercial standpoint. Further, the private works in Chittur, especially those of Mr. Pitchu Ayyar, are very successful commercially. They yield handsome dividends. In my opinion, the proper policy would be to take up for execution only those works which would give us a reasonable income, and to consider the other non-remunerative schemes, only if the interested people are prepared to contribute a share of the expenditure to show their sympathy for and faith in the schemes. Otherwise, I fear, the money of the general tax-payer may have to be spent to the benefit to a limited number of holdings which may be called unfair from a general administrative point of view. That is a point which I have to earnestly urge the members of this House to seriously think over before coming on to any definite decision.

Having seen, therefore, that many of the schemes now put forward are non-remunerative, we have been searching again the resources of our State to draw up some which could be economically worked out. To this end we have taken up the investigation of the Tannikkudam Project. I am also aware of a couple of more schemes of this nature which we shall take up one by one, after the investigation of this is completed.

The second part of the resolution deals with an allotment of 2 lakhs to be made for irrigation works in the State every year. The more important thing here is not the question of finding out sound schemes. If such schemes stand sound criticism, they may be taken up, and necessary funds provided for their speedy execution.

This resolution is one of the most beneficial we have ever yet had in this Council, and I have great pleasure in supporting the sentiments expressed in it, in accordance with the policy that, as far as possible, agricultural schemes of a remunerative nature should be taken up and diligently worked out and necessary funds provided in every year's budget for their speedy completion.

But I am not sure how far the proposal of Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja for the formation of a committee to map out irrigation works will be useful at this juncture, for we have already passed the stage in our investigations where such a committee would be of value. We are now in possession of the details of all the popular schemes for irrigation which, unfortunately happen to be of a non-remunerative nature.

Our present schemes like the Tannikkudam Project, etc., require special investigations before we could pronounce whether they will be successful or not. A committee will not

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be useful at this stage in any way, and further I fear they may be of hindrance to us in our works. I consider, therefore, that such a committee is unnecessary inasmuch as no case has been made out to warrant its formation.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know what the hydro-electric scheme of Mr. Bhore cost the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The hydro-electric scheme of Mr. Bhore, will cost us 50 lakhs of rupees, but the question underlying it is whether the scheme will be a success or not. This scheme is linked together with other schemes such as the Tramway, paper manufacture, etc. If one of them fails, all of them collapse. That is the reason why the Government had to postpone the execution of such works.

Mr. A. P. Salem.—Will the Member in charge be pleased to place the papers regarding this on the table?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon—The Government consideres it premature at present, to place the papers before the House.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—How can the papers be placed before the House, if it is not published?

President.—Any further information wanted on the subject?

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I beg to know who investigated these projects? Is it the committee?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This was done by the co-operation of the Engineering and the Revenue Departments, after discussing with the people of the respective localities.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Were the non-officials consulted?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Many of them were consulted.

President.—Each work has been separately examined, and the various aspects considered.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I think that the method of consultation by forming a committee and consulting the opinion of the local cultivators, and by making the committee responsible for the investigation, will be more beneficial. I undersatnd there are three projects in the Talapplli Taluk; for instance, the Punalur Scheme, the Tiruvilluamala Project and Porkkulam Project. There are more projects, which are likely to be more beneficial, and which are likely to be paying also.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Altogether, there are 8 projects.

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Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—As far as the Porkkulam Project is concerned, this is the first time that I have heard of such a project. That only shows how thorough and complete these investigations were!

President.—When the various officers go for inspection purposes, the people of the locality gather round them and represent their wants. Any other member wishing to speak?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I support the motion as amended. I understand from the speech of the Member in charge of the Department and from the speeches made here by the other members that the policy which has been adopted by the Government with regard to irrigation works in the State, has not been successfully pursued, because, there has not been an efficient committee to look after it. The Head of the Department alone has not been able to carry out the varied projects mentioned. If there were a committee, the members would have pushed through these projects. The proposed committee has to work hard and to lay down a vigorous policy. We have many important projects, and a vigorous policy should, therefore, be laid down.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Will this be enough for the project to be sound?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The Departmental Head may also give his expert opinion on the projects under consideration. We had many schemes, but they were not carried out, because of the absence of a committee. The non-official members of the committee are likely to be more interested in the carrying out of irrigation projects.

President.—With regard to these schemes, they may not be paying or lucrative, and that is why they are postponed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it wrong to examine various schemes with the help of a committee?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Apart protective works from a commercial point of view, is it not the duty of the State to undertake?

President.—We should not undertake any schemes which are not remunerative.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I submit that there should be a committee consisting mainly of non-official members.

The second point I desire to mention is that the Government does not pay sufficient attention to the needs of the agricultural people who pay a number of taxes. There are rich money-lenders in the State, and they do not pay anything substantial to

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the Exchequer of the State. There is no mistake, if the Government incurs a heavy expenditure with regard to the improvement of agriculture in the State. The Government should undertake such projects as are beneficial to the agricultural people, and if they could be examined and approved by a committee consisting mainly of non-officials, it will be possible to convince the agriculturists that sufficient attention is given to their needs. Agriculturists form the main population of the State, and they are contributing more to its Exchequer than other classes of people do. If the interests of this people are not sufficiently guarded, the revenue of the State will be adversely affected. Many of the members of the Council have already expressed their opinion that agriculturists have been taxed too much, and that other classes of people are left scot-free. If the agriculturists are made to pay, they should naturally be given some corresponding help. I submit that, even though they are not raising a hue and cry, it is important they should be helped by improving irrigation.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.– Please let me know the opinion of the Kole Committee with regard to the irrigation of *Kole areas*.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—*The Report of the Kole Committee* suggests the leaving of a portion of the land fallow. It is not practicable to work this proposal. The next scheme of the Committee is to bring water from the Chalakkudi river. Here the interest of the Travancore Government comes in. It is always difficult to move another Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—With reference to the *Kole* cultivation at Trichur, were the recommendations made by the Kole Committee carried out ?

President.—Of course, legislation is required for this. I think the Government are about to prepare a Bill on the subject.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I find from the discussion that it is a simple thing—a little attention to which would bring much benefit to the ryot. The Report simply says that irrigation water is being wasted, as the water is being pumped out. If this water is stored, it would serve a very useful purpose. Their next suggestion is to leave fallow a certain portion of the field. If so, some remission of the assessment will have to be made. With regard to the irrigation scheme, water may be lifted by electricity, and this has also to be considered. Of course, there is the hydro-electric scheme of Mr. Bhore, and if this comes into existence, there will be no difficulty.

I shall read out certain extracts from the *Kole Committee Report*.

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Their suggestion is that "the Government should take over the pumping, that the area should be divided into as large blocks as possible to facilitate pumping and to obviate, the necessity for the costly maintenance of the inner bunds now required to differentiate individual owner's blocks for pumping purposes, that the pumping should be done electrically, and that, ultimately, the vast quantity of water which has now to be drained into the sea, should, by lifting, be partly stored and partly used for irrigating the lands now lying idle, or yielding but a single crop". Again, they say "for the present, my proposal is that we should merely do by electricity what is now being done by steam or oil engines. Ultimately, however, I look to a great development of lift irrigation by electricity which should revolutionise agriculture in the State. Not only will it be possible to store water for the use of the *Kole* lands when necessary, but with the help of properly constructed high level contour channels, it will be possible to utilise the vast stores of water now useless, because of the level at which they stand, to raise a second crop on single crop lands, and to bring into cultivation areas which at present yield no crop at all. Similar observations are found in Mr. Forbe's report on the hydro-electric scheme under the heading "*Kole lands*". These constitute about 13,000 acres of very rich lands which are normally flooded from June to February, but if unwatered in time, produce very fine crops, and if this water can be stored on adjacent lands, will either provide water for opening out new lands or for a second crop on lands on which a single crop is now grown. Motor-driven pumps supplied from the hydro-electric power system will guarantee that the lands are unwatered in time for a crop of each year, and provision has been made in two estimates for their unwatering each year by the end of January, but from my inspection I am of opinion that this will be only the beginning of things. The unwatering will be completed in three months, and the power can be used during the remaining nine months for pumping water from the rivers to high level canals and distributed to lands now under dry cultivation, and to obtain a second crop from lands now growing only one. I would recommend a careful survey of the land adjacent to the power lines and rivers with a definite aim of using the power for lifting irrigation at a time when it would otherwise not be used".

Now what I submit is that this Report is over 7 years of age. There was no difficulty to acquire portions of those lands for the purpose of erecting reservoirs to store this water. I do not know whether any such scheme is in the contemplation of the Government. Anyhow, we suggest the Government would consider it.

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President.—Mr. Salem, do you want the Land Acquisition Regulation to be put into force?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It would be very beneficial to the population there.

President.—Do they recommend such process?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Water is to be lifted.

President.—Is there any legislation with regard to this?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—With regard to the suggestion contained in the Report, I believe that a certain portion of the land is to be left fallow. It may not be believed by many of the experts here that Government has been neglecting such a matter.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—On the point of the Travancore Government objecting to take water from the Chalakkudi water, has our Government taken any further steps? They raised objections to our taking water from the Chalakkudi River to the *Kole* regions. Do the Government think that their contention is right?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No, we do not think their contention is right.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If you think that their contention is not right, we should not yield but fight for it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Now, in these things what has the Government done in the interests of *Kole* cultivation? The adoption of immediate measures have become absolutely necessary.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are every year investigating them. Now, we are constructing additional dams at Enamakkal.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I seek information. That is all.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are every year working that problem.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I propose that the question may now be put.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Sir, I second it.

The closure motion was put and passed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, I accept the amendments. May I know what harm is there, if the expert knowledge of the department concerned also is sought, in addition to the view of the committee who may have only a lay man's knowledge. The department is expected to know where and how to put up the bund, whether it is necessary,

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and how far it will be useful, and these things will be known only to them and the people of the locality.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—How far it will be successful and what finance is required are to be suggested by the ryots.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What harm is there in having a committee ?

President.—We had Road Committees and KoleCommittees. Is it to be a standing committee, and have they only to investigate the schemes?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It is not to be a standing committee.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Most of the works undertaken by the department are protective works. It is on that point that calculations are made, and I think, if a Commtte is appointed, they will be able to propose other schemes which will give an adequate return. The water of the rivers is being emptied into the sea. They carry with them silt, and this silt is manure. I understand that the fertility of the soil in Tanjore and other districts is due to the accumulation of this silt which is good manure. But here all this silt is carried away to the sea.

President.—Can we prevent it?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Proper channels should be dug and the water diverted to different places.

President.—During the time of floods we find that these paddy lands to a large extent are under water. The rivers also are full at the beginning of the monsoon. If the water is not let away, the whole place will be flooded.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Of course, if this is adopted, the soil will be very fertile. If we put dams across these rivers, especially across the Manali and Kurumali, the inundation question will be a very serious one. Here in southern Cochin the question of drainage is more important.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—If the water is not allowed to flow here, the surrounding countries would be flooded, and complete destruction will be the result.

The resolution as amended by Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja was put to the vote and carried.

The Council adjourned at 5 p.-m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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